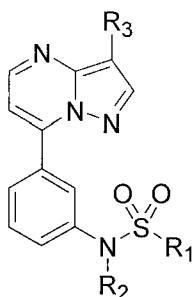


**AMENDED CLAIM SET:**

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I):

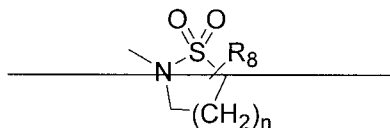


(I)

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; wherein

$R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl( $C_1-C_6$ ), alkenyl( $C_2-C_6$ ),  $\omega,\omega,\omega$ -trifluoroalkyl( $C_1-C_6$ ), cycloalkyl( $C_3-C_6$ ), cycloalkyl( $C_3-C_6$ )alkyl( $C_1-C_6$ ), phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, disubstituted phenyl, phenylalkyl( $C_1-C_6$ ), phenylalkenyl( $C_2-C_6$ ), furyl, substituted furyl, isoxazolyl, substituted isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, substituted pyrazolyl, thienyl, substituted thienyl, thiazolyl, substituted thiazolyl, pyridyl and substituted pyridyl;

$R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl( $C_1-C_6$ ), alkenyl( $C_2-C_6$ ), alkynyl( $C_2-C_6$ ) and cycloalkyl( $C_3-C_6$ );



$R_3$  is selected from the group consisting of  $-CN$  and  $-COR_6$  wherein  $R_6$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl( $C_1-C_6$ ), alkenyl( $C_2-C_6$ ), alkynyl( $C_2-C_6$ ), cycloalkyl( $C_3-C_6$ ), phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, disubstituted phenyl, phenylalkyl( $C_1-C_6$ ), phenylalkenyl( $C_2-C_6$ ), furyl, substituted furyl, thienyl, substituted thienyl, thiazolyl, substituted thiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, substituted oxadiazolyl, pyridyl and substituted pyridyl;

with the proviso that simultaneously:  $R_1$  may not be p-tolyl and  $R_2$  methyl and  $R_3$  benzoyl; and  $R_1$  may not be p-tolyl and  $R_2$  ethyl and  $R_3$  furyl-2-carbonyl.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently as defined in formula (I) and  $R_3$  is a cyano group.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, phenyl and 4-methoxyphenyl; and  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, cyclopropyl and 2-propynyl.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  jointly form a 1,3-propylene group.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently as defined in formula (I) and  $R_3$  is a thiophene-2-carbonyl group.

6. (original) A compound according to claim 5, wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, 2-phenylethenyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, phenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 3-chlorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 3,4-dichlorophenyl, 2-cyanophenyl, 3-cyanophenyl, 4-cyanophenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 3-nitrophenyl, 4-nitrophenyl, 2-thienyl, 5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl, 5-methyl-2-trifluoromethyl-3-furyl, 4-(4-morpholinyl)-3-pyridyl, 2,4-dimethyl-5-thiazolyl, cyclopropyl, benzyl, vinyl, 3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl, 1,3,5-trimethyl-4-pyrazolyl and cyclopentylmethyl; and  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, cyclopropyl and 2-propynyl.

7. (original) A compound according to claim 5 wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  jointly form a 1,3-propylene group.

8. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently as defined in formula (I) and  $R_3$  is a benzoyl group.

9. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 8 wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

10. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently as defined in formula (I) and  $R_3$  is a 4-fluorobenzoyl group.

11. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 10 wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

12. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently as defined in formula (I) and  $R_3$  is a 4-methylbenzoyl group.

13. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 12 wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

14. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently as defined in formula (I) and  $R_3$  is a 4-methoxybenzoyl group.

15. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 14 wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

16. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently as defined in formula (I) and  $R_3$  is a 5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl group.

17. (original) A compound according to claim 16 wherein  $R_1$  is methyl and  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and ethyl.

18. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently as defined in formula (I) and  $R_3$  is a pyridyl-2-carbonyl group.

19. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 18 wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

20. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently as defined in formula (I) and  $R_3$  is a pyridyl-4-carbonyl group.

21. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 20 wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

22. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-methanesulfonamide;  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-methanesulfonamide;  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-benzenesulfonamide;  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-benzenesulfonamide;  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-methanesulfonamide;  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-propyl-ethanesulfonamide;  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-ethanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-propane-2-sulfonamide;  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-ethanesulfonamide;  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-butyl-ethanesulfonamide;  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-2-propanesulfonamide;  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-2-propanesulfonamide;  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-butyl-2-propanesulfonamide;  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-propyl-2-propanesulfonamide; and  
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-ethanesulfonamide.

23. (original) A compound according to claim 4 wherein said compound is 7-(3-(2-isothiazolyldinyl-1,1-dioxide)-phenyl)-3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine.

24. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;  
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;  
N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzenesulfonamide;  
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzenesulfonamide;  
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;  
N-propyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;  
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-butyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-propyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-butyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-phenylethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,2,2-trifluoroethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-cyano-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-cyano-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-cyano-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-nitro-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-nitro-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-trifluoromethyl-5-methyl-3-furyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-6-(morpholin-4-yl)-3-pyridyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dimethyl-5-thiazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-cyclopropylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}—vinylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-1,3,5-trimethyl-4-pyrazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-butanesulfonamide; and

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-cyclopentylmethanesulfonamide.

25. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 7 wherein said compound is 7-(3-(2-isothiazolydiny-1,1-dioxide)-phenyl)-3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine.

26. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 8 or claim 9 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

27. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 10 or claim 11 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;



N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo [1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

28. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 12 or claim 13 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

29. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 14 or claim 15 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

30. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 or claim 17 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-{3-[3-(5-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide; and

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(5-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)-pyrazolo [1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

31. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 18 or claim 19 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide.

32. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

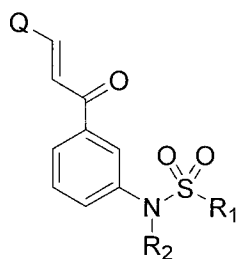
N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

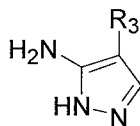
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

33. (withdrawn) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 1, comprising reacting intermediate (II):



(II)

wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are as defined in (I) and Q is an appropriate leaving group selected from the group consisting of N(dialkyl(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)), alkylthio(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>) and alkoxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>), with intermediate (III):



(III)

wherein R<sub>3</sub> is as defined in (I) and alternatively, treatment of the compounds of claim 1, in the form of free base, with an acid to form a salt thereof.

34. (withdrawn) A process according to claim 33, comprising utilizing the intermediate of formula (II) where Q is selected from the group consisting of dimethylamino, methylthio and methoxy.

35. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ diseases associated with GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor modulation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

36. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ diseases associated with  $\alpha_1$ -GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor modulation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

37. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ diseases associated with  $\alpha_2$ -GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor modulation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

38. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ anxiety in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

39. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ epilepsy in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

40. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ sleep disorders in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

41. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ insomnia in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

42. (withdrawn) A method for inducing sedation-hypnosis in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

43. (withdrawn) A method for inducing anesthesia in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

44. (withdrawn) A method for modulating the necessary time to induce sleep and its duration in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

45. (withdrawn) A method for inducing muscle relaxation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

46. (previously presented) A composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and a therapeutically inert carrier.

47. – 51. (cancelled).